



The LongPath

A North Alabama DX Club Publication

Special points of interest:

- From the President
- March Program
- FTDX-101MP 1st Impressions
- Proposed Constitution Change
- NADXC Membership Explained
- Elmer Program
- DX Contests
- Treasurer's Report
- QSL Cards Wanted
- Current & Upcoming DX
- Job Posting
- February Meeting Minutes

How to Join

- * Come to a club meeting;
- * or send in an application by mail (form on www.NADXC.org)

From the President

I hope you have noticed that 9J2LA in Zambia is currently on the air. Have you worked them yet? We voted to support their DXpedition back in January. South Orkney, VP8PJ, is also on, and they are number 16 on the most wanted list.

We had a death in the family last week. Craig Behrens, NM4T, finally succumbed to a 5-year battle with cancer. He was a past president, long-time contributor to the Long Path, and leader in the national QRP movement, having led offsite meetings concurrent with our hamfest. And, of course, a personal friend. I have heard recommendations for getting him a brick at ARRL HQ. Interest?

We need to continue the ongoing discussion of changes to the constitution and bylaws. We'll finish the discussions and vote next month. The subject is membership rules. Again, Tom, KG4CUY, will discuss where we are at, and what needs to happen over the next month. I think we'll all be happy with the results.

I hope to sign the banquet contract before Tuesday's meeting. I've looked several places, but haven't found one competitive with the Spring

Hill (behind the VBC). You'll remember we had a food shortage problem last year. I discussed that with their management, and have a solution worked into the contract. Unfortunately the price will go up a little this year. I have also invited a speaker, and will discuss it at the meeting.

The ARRL DXCC list began with Clinton DeSoto's landmark QST article in 1935. The original list was published two years later, along with some pretty quirky rules – rules that only hams would appreciate. There are only 341 DX Entities currently out there, but you may have noticed some of our members have more, actually many more than 341 ... but strangely don't have "them all." DXCC entities come and go on the winds of world politics: If you'd like to hear some background on this curious subject, come on out to hear Tom Duncan's program this Tuesday, March 10, at Newk's Eatery on University Drive. Dinner at 5:30 and the program will be at 6:15. We'll have another current DX contest, of course. So study up on those call signs.

March Program

By Tom Duncan, KG4CUY

When Bob Dylan wrote "The Times They Are a-Changin'" no doubt he had in mind DX entities. Sometimes the entities themselves change names but the players remain the same, sometimes they change prefixes for no apparent reason. Entire countries split into parts, or sometimes merge into one. World politics beginning immediately after World War II and continuing to the present day account for this sort of thing in recent times. Come here KG4CUY talk about a few such changes. Get to Newk's around 5:30 for dinner, 6:00 for the business meeting (which may include some discussion of constitutional

changes proposed—see p. 2), and we'll try to get the program underway by 6:15 or 6:30. If you see Bob Dylan between now and then, invite him, even if he isn't a ham.



FTDX-101MP First Impressions

By Steve Werner, AG4W

At HamCation in Florida while I was trying many of the features of the new Yaesu FTDX-101MP my wife Kathy was buying it from GigaParts across the aisle. Several have asked why I traded in my FTDX-5000D with station monitor. I have had that radio for 8 years and it was number 1 on Sherwood's Receiver list when I got it. It is now number 12. During that time many changes have happened to radio design. Software Defined Radios have become much better. That is why the FlexRadio 6700 is now number 2 on Sherwood's Receiver list. The Yaesu

FTDX-101D is now number 1 on the list. It is a hybrid SDR design much like Elecraft's new K-4. It takes advantage of the best properties of both SDR and down converting radios.

In the last week and a half since I got the radio I have used it during the last night of the CQWW 160M SSB contest and to chase VP8PJ and other DX stations. I was very familiar with the FTDX-5000D and was worried I would have some difficulty with getting use to the FTDX-101MP. That was not the case. The layout is intuitive and ergonomic. The only control knob that I used fre-

quently on the FTDX-5000D that is not a standalone knob on the FTDX-101MP is the power knob. The outer ring of the main tuning dial can be made the power knob on the FTDX-101MP using the C.S. button next to the outer ring. The outer ring can also be used to tune the sub receiver, clarifier, fine tuning or VC tuning.

The VC tuning replaces the micro tune external units for the FTDX-5000D. The FTDX-101MP has a VC tune unit for the main and sub receiver. On 160M it is extremely useful. It can

Cont'd on p. 3

Announcement of Proposed Constitution Change

NADXC Board of Directors

The NADXC board proposes changes to the constitution establishing new membership classes. The proposed wording was published in the January LongPath and appears again below. There was some discussion on this at the January meeting, and the floor will be open for discussion again at the upcoming March meeting.

This serves as official notice that a vote will be held to accept these changes, with possible amendments resulting from the discussion, at the April meeting.

Proposed new constitution wording to effect these changes is as follows:

Article I, Membership, Section 1 will be amended to read:

"Membership shall be open to all persons meeting membership requirements detailed in the by-laws, in three classes: Regular, Emeritus, and Inactive."

Article I, Membership, Section 3 will be amended to read:

"A Regular member may resign by verbal or written notice to the club Secre-

tary/ Treasurer at any time. A member who resigns will be removed from Inactive status as well."

Article I, Membership, Section 5 will be amended to read:

"Membership for Regular members shall revert to Inactive Status in the event of non-payment of dues. Regular membership privileges shall be reinstated immediately upon receipt of the current year's dues by the Secretary/ Treasurer. Regular members who revert to Inactive Status can remain in that status indefinitely, and their DXCC totals will always remain."

Article I, Membership, Section 6 will be amended to read:

"Members in any class may be removed for cause by a three-fourths (3/4) majority vote of Regular members in attendance at a regular meeting. Cause for removal shall first be presented to the Board of Directors in writing and, upon a majority finding of sufficient grounds by the Board, shall be presented to the membership for a vote."

Article VI, Amendments, Section 1 will be amended to read:

"The Constitution may be amended by a three-fourths (3/4) majority vote of the Regular members in attendance at the amending meeting. Notice of the proposed amendment shall be published in the Long Path at least thirty days prior to the amending meeting, and notification of the availability of the Long Path on the NADXC web site shall be sent by email to all Regular members at that time."

Article VI, Amendments, Section 2 will be amended to read:

"Proposals to amend the By-laws must be presented in a regular meeting. A motion must be made at a regular meeting following announcement of proposed changes in the LongPath in order for the proposal to be called to a vote, when a three-fourths (3/4) majority vote of Regular members present is required for passage."

FTDX-101MP First Impressions

(cont'd from p. 2)

provide up to 70 dB of interference reduction by using a motor driven variable capacitor to track the frequency. This is very effective for an interfering signal even 10-15 KHz away.

The 2D Spectrum Scope with waterfall display is very useful. You can find a run frequency in a contest or see where the DX station is listening chasing DX. They have included a cool to watch 3D Spectrum Scope that very interesting, but not as functional. It uses the horizontal axis for frequency, vertical axis for signal strength and Z axis for time. The span is programmable from 1Khz to 1MHz. The Spectrum Scope and display has many programmable functions. On the touch screen display you can have a meter for the main and sub receiver or have 2 meters for just the main receiver. You can also show the Spectrum Scope for one or both receivers.

The digital noise reduction on the FTDX-5000D was great. The FTDX-101MP is even better. There is even some noise reduction on CW at 600 Hz bandwidth. The CW Audio Peaking Filter is also better than the FTDX-5000D. The menu system is more comprehensive on the FTDX-101MP, but it is easier

to access. You can use the touch screen or use a mouse. The mouse is particularly nice with an external monitor. Yaesu is currently providing an HP monitor free as a rebate. I was amazed to receive mine in one week.

The FTDX-101MP includes 200 watt output instead of 100 watts which is nice for me on 6 meters and to drive my AL-1200 on some bands to 1500 watts output. It also includes the 300 Hz roofing filter on the main receiver. The power supply for the radio is included in the external speaker that is included.

Is there room for improvement. Always! The most annoying thing is a slight pop going from transmit to receive on CW. I have seen this written up in the eHam reviews. It would also be nice to have some programmable averaging on the 2D Spectrum scope. I also do not believe the Contour function has the gain available that the FTDX-5000D had. That was helpful on weak SSB signals.

I am glad Yaesu and ICOM have continued to include most of the needed functions with knobs on the front of their radios. I have enjoyed both the Yaesu FTDX-101MP and the ICOM IC-9700. ICOM has done a great job up-

dating the firmware of the IC-9700 to improve the radio and I expect Yaesu will do the same with the FTDX-101MP. They did with the FTDX-5000D. Both of my new radios have an SD card that stores configuration data and can be used to upload new firmware. It saves you from having to enter all the menu settings you changed all over again when you update firmware. These new radios are making a good retirement great.

73 Steve AG4W

Elmer Program

By Steve Molo, KI4KWR

Back in January we had a list go around at the Meeting seeking elmers that would be available to assist anyone looking for help. Currently we have 10 NADXC members in the group listing. Below is the topics we currently have listed:

HF / ANTENNAS / OPERATING / DIGITAL / DX / CONTESTING / VHF-UHF / PORTABLE / FIELD DAY

If you are interested in helping in the Elmer Program email me at KI4KWR@gmail.com and I will add you to the list. Currently I have setup email lists on my end for each category and then when someone requests assistance I email to the category email list the person requesting help so assistance can be rendered.

The LongPath Staff

Publisher/Editor:

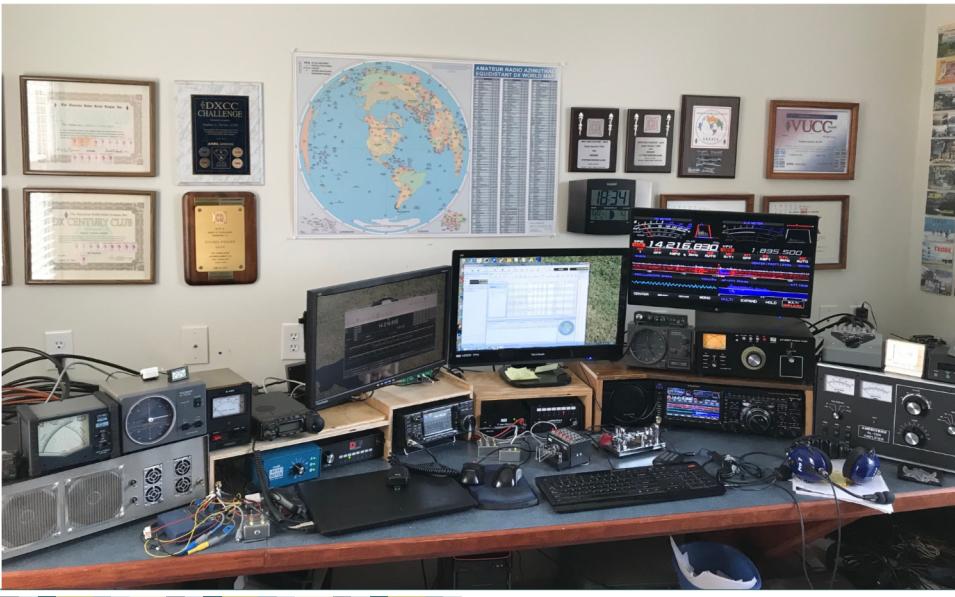
Tom Duncan, KG4CUY

Departments:

Chuck Lewis, N4NM, DX Contests

Chris Reed, AI4U, Minutes

Bob De Pierre, K8KI, From the President



March, 2020

The LongPath

Page 3

DX Contests for March

By Chuck Lewis, N4NM

ARRL International DX Contest (SSB), 160 - 10 Meters

Mar. 7, 0000Z to Mar. 8, 2359Z

Exchange: RS plus St/Pr. DX sends
RS + power

See page 79, Mar. QST or
www.arrl.org/arrl-dx

See page 85, Mar. QST or
www.bartg.org.uk

Open Ukraine RTTY contest (RTTY), 160 - 10 Meters

Mar. 7, 1800Z to Mar. 8, 11359Z

Exchange: ST/Pr/etc. plus serial

See page 79, Mar. QST or krs.ho/oa/openrtty

Russian DX Contest (PH/CW), 160 - 10 Meters

Mar 21, 1200Z to Mar 22, 1200Z

Exchange: RS(T) plus serial #; or RS
(T) plus Oblast #

See page 79, Mar. QST or
www.rdxco.org



UBA Spring Contest, CW (CW), 80 Meters

Mar. 8, 0700Z to Mar 18, 1100Z

Exchange: RS, Serial, UBA section (if
any)

See page 79, Mar. QST or
www.uba.be/hf/contest-rules

UBA Spring Contest, SSB (SSB), 80 Meters

Mar, 22, 0700Z to Mar 22, 1100Z

Exchange: RS, Serial, UBA section (if
any)

See page 79, Mar. QST or
www.uba.be/hf/contest-rules

Stew Perry Topband Challenge, (CW), 160 Meters

Mar. 14, 1500Z to Mar. 15, 1500Z

Exchange: 4-Character grid square

See page 79, Mar. QST or www.kkn.net/stew/

CQWW WPX Contest (PH), 160 - 10 meters

Mar 28, 0000Z to Mar 29, 2359Z

Exchange: RS plus Serial #.

OTHERS

Tesla Memorial Contest,
1800Z Mar. 14 to 0559Z Mar.15

LZ Open 40M Sprint,
0400Z to 0800Z April 4

SP DX Contest
1500Z, April 4 to 1500Z April 5

EA RTTY Contest,
1600Z April 4 to 1600Z April 5

JIDX CW Contest,
0700Z, April 11 to 1300Z April 12

OK/OM DX Contest,
1200Z April 11 to 1200Z, April 12

Dates & times often change or are misprinted in the journals; beware.

Chuck, N4NM

NADXC Officers and Directors

President	Bob De Pierre, K8KI
Vice President	Steve Molo, KI4KWR
Secretary/	Chris Reed, AI4U
Treasurer	
At-large	Kevin Hibbs, KG4TEI
Directors	Tom Duncan, KG4CUY
(Ex-Officio)	Steve Werner, AG4W

Treasurer's Report

Balance on February 1	\$ 8321.63
Balance on February 29	8321.63
Member Paypal Deposits Outstanding	520.75
Membership Deposits Outstanding	180.00
Balance as of March 8	9022.38

QSL Cards Wanted

Please bring your outgoing QSL cards to Tuesday night's meeting. We're very close to having enough to send to the league for the club's next batch.

73, Stephen, KY4G

Current and Upcoming DX

Re-printed by permission of Bill Feidt, N6EK

Start	End	DX Entity	Call	QSL Via	Info
3/4	3/15	Zambia	9J2LA	M00XO	By LA3BO LA3MHA LA8OM LA9KKA LA9VPA LB8DC DK6SP OE5CWO OE7PGI SM6CPY; 160-6m; CW SSB FT8, some RTTYa
3/4	3/16	Reunion	T07DL	LoTW	By DL7DF and team fm IOTA AF-016 (LG79rc); 160-10m, incl 60m; CW SSB + digital; QSL OK via DL7DF
3/4	3/22	Rwanda	9X2AW	LoTW	By DF2WO fm Kigali (KI48xe)2400m ASL; HF, incl 160m; FT8 SSB CW; 100w; hex beam; QSL OK via M00XO OQRS
3/6	3/13	Antigua	V26FP	LoTW	By IW2NEF fm IOTA NA-100; HF; SSB + digital; QSL also OK via Club Log OQRS and IK2DUW direct
3/6	3/17	Kyrgyzstan	EX0QR	Club Log OQRS	By R2DY R2DX RW3FB fm the south shore of Issyk Kul Lake; 160-10m; CW SSB + digital; QSL also OK via R2DX
3/6	4/1	Madeira	CT9	LoTW	By DL3KWR as CT9/DL3KWR and DL3KWF as CT9/DL3KWF; HF; QSL also OK via home_call or eQSL
3/7	3/13	Antigua	V26FP	IK2DUW	By IW2NEF fm Jolly Harbour (IOTA NA-100); 40-10m; SSB FT8
3/8	3/27	Mauritius	3B8XF	LoTW	By G3TXF; focus on 160 80m; QRV for BERU Contest; QSL via Club Log OQRS; exact start date unclear
3/8	4/9	Barbados	8P6DR	LoTW	By G3RWL; 80-10m; CW; QSL also OK via Club Log OQRS (preferred) or G3RWL direct
3/9	3/18	Rodrigues Isl.	3B9AN	Club Log OQRS	By F8AAN 80-17m; 100w; mainly nighttime; holiday style operation; QSL also OK via F8AAN direct
3/10	3/15	New Caledonia	TX8A	JA1GZV	By JA1GZV fm Noumea; 40-15m; CW; 100w; dipole, yagi; QSL OK B/d or QSL
3/10	3/31	Vietnam	XV9DXB	EB7DX	By HB9DXB fm Nha Trang (OK42og); 20m; CW SSB; QSL also OK via HB9DXB CBA w/ 2USD; end date unclear
3/11	3/15	Kuwait	9K2F	9K2RA	By 9K2HQ + KARS team fm Failaka I (IOTA AS-118); 80 40 30 20 15 10 17 12m; SSB CW FT8
3/12	3/21	Maldives	8Q7NC	LoTW	By F6BGC fm Veligandu I (IOTA AS-013, MJ64mh); HF; SSB CW + digital; 100w; vertical; holiay style operation; QSL also OK via F6BGC direct

For up-to-date information, visit ng3k.com “Announced DX Operations: 2020”

Field Day Chairman Position Open

JOB POSTING—FIELD DAY CHAIRMAN

Duties & Responsibilities

Plan, organize, and execute the collection of people, material, and equipment for the Huntsville Amateur Radio Club's participation in the annual ARRL Field Day exercise on June 27-28, 2020.

Details:

The successful candidate will secure permission from the U.S. Spare & Rocket Center to use the field in front of the Marriott for the club's use. The Chairman will organize and oversee individual managers of HF and VHF stations, trailer haulers for bringing equipment to and from the site, oversee the manager organizing and reserving the campers for the stations, arrange for emergency power generation for the duration of the event, solicit a picnic

coordinator, task someone with scheduling media and elected official visits, and provide overall leadership and decision making during the course of the event. Strong interpersonal and communications skills are a plus. Familiarity with project management or spreadsheets to track material and resources is helpful.

This is a highly rewarding position and compensation includes a sit down picnic meal on Saturday night as the guest of honor.

Experience Needed:

None. As Chairman you will have an experienced and willing team of hams and XYL's eager to provide guidance and encouragement. Individual station managers will be responsible for definition, assembly, and operation of stations.

Education:

High school diploma or more and an active Amateur Radio license.

Huntsville Amateur Radio Club is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Application may be made directly to Billy Gold, club president.

February Meeting Minutes

By Chris Reed, AI4U, NADXC Secretary/Treasurer

Bob called the meeting to order at 6:23 pm and welcomed everyone. Then the upcoming contests and DX worked noted on the sign-in sheet were announced. Twenty-two members and two guests attended the meeting.

A motion was made to approve the January minutes, the motion was seconded and carried.

Chris, AI4U give a membership update. Including family membership, there are 49 total members.

Chris, AI4U covered the 2020 budget proposed by the board followed by the financial report. The balance is \$8321.63 . A motion to approve the budget and financial report was made, seconded and carried.

Mark, N4BCD provided an update on the activity of Bryant, KG5HVO. He has organized the YOTA event coming up

Tom, KG4CUY explained the process of

how the club was going to vote a change in the bylaws.

A motion was made by Barry, W4WB and seconded by Mark, N4BCD. The motion carried. See Tom's detailed explanation in the LongPath.

Bob, K8KI introduced Fred, KF3FRK who had applied to become a member and asked him to tell the group about himself. A motion was made by Barry, W4WB, seconded by Chris, AI4U, to approve Fred for membership, the motion carried.

Bob, K8KI stated the list of elmers who had signed-up had been given to Billy, KM4BGF , President of HARC. HARC members can request assistance as needed. Bob also thanked all the volunteers that have been longtime contributors of the LongPath and/or the editor. He asked for others to contribute by writing an article.

Bob, K8KI made a plea for programs or submit an idea for a program.

Bob, referred to the N3KG site and asked members to use their smart phone and reviewed the DX that would be on the list including TN/UA9FGR (Congo), 5H4WZ (Tanzania), EM44CC (Palestine)

Bob requested names of a possible speaker for this year's banquet. We have been turned down by a couple so far. Bob will visit the Springhill and research other venues to host the banquet.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:54 pm.

Bruce, AC4G provided the program, All about Clublog.

Next meeting March 10 at 6:30pm at Newks, University Drive.Respectfully submitted,

Chris Reed, AI4U